

New Clean Jobs, Energy Independence Hinge on National RES Passage

By Andris E. Cukurs

The explosive growth of the U.S. wind power industry ranks among the most important energy developments of this young century. From a nascent industry just a decade ago, it has made the U.S. the global leader in wind capacity.

More than 20,000 U.S. manufacturing jobs are tied directly to wind energy with another 65,000 renewable energy related jobs spread across the economy. In the past two years alone, nearly \$3 billion in 100-plus manufacturing facilities in the U.S. have been added, announced or expanded.

But the U.S. risks losing its lead – and, with it, tens of thousands of critical new green jobs. Several countries abroad – the European Union members, China and India, are striving to expand their wind capacity substantially by setting mandatory targets for how much electricity must be generated from alternative energy sources by 2020. If that happens, the American Wind Energy Association estimates three-of-four new wind-related manufacturing projects could go outside the U.S., along with their jobs.

Only Congress can keep thousands of clean jobs from going abroad at a time when America's economic recovery demands the creation of millions of new jobs. Lawmakers must pass a renewable-electricity standard that, like those abroad, would require utilities to obtain 15 percent to 20 percent of their electricity from wind, solar and other alternative power sources by 2020.

In the last session of Congress, the House approved such a national RES but the Senate never took up the issue. Now a bipartisan group of influential senators including Sens. John Kerry (D., Mass.), Lindsey Graham (R., S.C.) and Joe Lieberman (I., Conn.) remain committed to passing a comprehensive climate and energy bill that, hopefully, would include a national RES. One global energy consultancy, Navigant Consulting, estimates that if a 20% percent U.S. standard was in place, 191,000 more new green jobs would be created by 2020.

The national standard is critical because, without it, utilities are unwilling to clear long-term deals for renewable energy. While banks have begun again to do some project financing and the Energy Department is awarding grants for renewable-energy companies, those efforts aren't sufficient to jump start the alternative-energy sector hit badly during the recession and the aftermath of the financial-markets crisis.

Still, wind is one of the most cost-competitive energy resources. The cost of electricity from the wind has dropped to near 4 cents per kilowatt hour in 2008 from 25 cents in 1981, the Energy Department reports. And analysis by the department's Lawrence Berkeley Lab found that wind prices have been competitive with wholesale power since 2003.

In survey after survey, Americans overwhelmingly favor the development of renewable-energy sources to create jobs and to help eliminate our dependence on foreign oil. Fifty-eight percent of U.S. voters surveyed in January by Rasmussen Reports say that renewable sources such as wind and solar power are the best long-term financial investment to discover new energy.

National RES will Trigger Clean Jobs, Help Secure Energy Independence

By Andris E. Cukurs

No matter their political party, lawmakers agree the U.S. must begin generating millions of jobs if it is to regain its economic vitality. As for President Obama, he considers jobs “our No. 1 focus in 2010.”¹ That’s why it’s hard to believe Congress hasn’t yet passed legislation essential if America is to continue attracting many tens of thousands of clean-energy jobs. Moreover, the right bill would reduce our dependency on foreign oil.

Such legislation would approve a national renewable electricity standard, or RES. It would require electric utilities to obtain a certain percentage – presumably 12-to-20 percent – of their power by 2020 from wind and other alternative energy sources. The House of Representatives passed a bill in June that set a 15 percent requirement, but the Senate did not take it up in the last Congressional session. Now it must be cleared by both Houses.

A strong move in the Senate to consider RES legislation has begun, involving a bipartisan group of lawmakers. Bills already submitted or being prepared would eliminate or soften opposition from utilities and Senators from regions where wind – and solar – power production lags behind the rest of the country. Senate RES proponents want Congressional consideration soon.

The Stakes are High

Why is a national RES necessary? In the U.S., the explosive growth of the industry ranks among the most important energy developments of this young century. From a nascent industry just a decade ago, it has generated more than 20,000 U.S. manufacturing jobs with another 65,000 related jobs spread across the economy.

In the past two years alone, nearly \$3 billion in 100-plus U.S. manufacturing facilities have been added, announced or expanded. Most important, companies from critical industries are flocking to the American wind industry for new business and growth opportunities.

If Congress adopted a national RES that required utilities to get 15 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2020, that standard would, it is estimated, create demand for as much as 100 gigawatts of new wind capacity by that year – enough to power 9 million homes.

¹ State of the Union address, 2010.

A national RES also is critical to the U.S. because, without it, utilities are hesitant to clear long-term deals for renewable energy. Banks have begun once again to undertake routine project financing and the Energy Department is awarding grants for U.S. renewable-energy projects. Still, in establishing a mandatory target for the percentage of electricity that must come from alternative energy by a certain year, a national standard would help in gaining the funds needed for new projects.

And a national standard would spark plenty of new green jobs. A study released in February by Navigant Consulting, the major global consultancy in energy, estimates that a 20 percent renewable-energy standard in the U.S. by 2020 would generate 191,000 more jobs.

Where U.S. Jobs Could Emerge

The Navigant Consulting study indicates that a national RES would stimulate job growth in the wind, solar, biomass, waste-to-energy and hydropower industries that would benefit the Southeastern U.S. and manufacturing states in particular. It also would complement tax benefits and ensure both the preservation and creation of jobs throughout rural America, researchers say.

A national RES, the study indicates, would benefit:

- Louisiana, Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and Florida, which will profit from substantial biomass and municipal solid waste-to-energy
- Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Indiana, which will gain from growth in manufacturing for a wide range of technologies
- North and South Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Illinois, home to major wind resources
- Colorado, Arizona, Oregon and California, where solar, wind and hydropower have significant growth potential
- States that do not currently have renewables standards or targets like Indiana, Florida, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Alabama

The benefits of a national RES for Southern states are significant, especially since many Southern lawmakers are skeptical about the benefits of a national energy policy for their states. The national RES provisions are included in a comprehensive national energy policy bill.

In its research and interviews, Navigant Consulting found several common themes from both domestic and foreign manufacturing firms, and they relate to job creation. First,

companies are most likely to locate manufacturing facilities where the market for their products is and will be over the long-term. Second, on-again, off-again short-term tax credits don't guarantee a long-term market for renewable electricity. Third, a strong national RES guarantees a long-term market for renewable electricity.

Fourth, a strong national RES is more likely to support more American manufacturing jobs than several short-term tax-credit extensions would. That's because companies tend to locate production facilities in regions with long-term demand.

Americans Strongly Support Alternative Fuel Sources

In survey after survey, Americans overwhelmingly favor development of renewable-energy sources to reduce or eliminate the country's dependence on foreign oil and to create green jobs. In one of the most recent surveys, released in late January, the Yale Climate Project and the George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication found that 85 percent of respondents favor more research on renewable energy such as wind power.

At the same time, however, while they are willing to support wind energy, Americans want to make sure that wind energy won't lead to higher electricity bills. That's unlikely since wind is one of the most cost-competitive energy resources. The cost of electricity from the wind has dropped to near 4 cents per kilowatt hour in 2008 from 25 cents in 1981, the Energy Department reports. And analysis by the department's Lawrence Berkeley Lab found that wind prices have been competitive with wholesale power since 2003.

Surveys also maintain that a national RES will lower energy bills. For instance, energy research firm Wood Mackenzie found that an RES would reduce natural gas prices and save more than \$100 billion in electricity costs by 2026. And the Union of Concerned Scientists' 2030 National Blueprint for a Clean Energy Economy figures net annual savings from reductions in electricity and fuel use from a national RES at \$255 billion by 2030. The study concludes that businesses, and homeowners, in every region of the country including coal-dependent regions would share in those savings.

In addition, U.S. lawmakers believe a national RES would revitalize rural America since farmers and rural land owners in windy areas can receive payments of \$3,000-8,000 per wind turbine per year while also still working their land.

Will Electric Utilities Still Strongly Oppose RES?

In his State of the Union address in late January, President Obama backed the bipartisan effort in the Senate, saying he was “eager” to help that effort. And he reiterated his support for a bill with incentives “that will finally make clean energy the profitable kind of energy in America.”

It’s still unclear whether the electric utility industry will continue to oppose legislation of the type being considered or introduced by Senators who favor a national RES. Utilities invested in coal-fired power plants are expected to keep up their vigorous opposition. But many utilities – such as Pacific Gas & Electric, Exelon Corp. and Duke Energy – are actually moving heavily into wind and solar.

Passage of a U.S. national RES remains uncertain, but Congress has a history of doing what’s right, especially when the issues relate to staying competitive internationally in an emerging technology or field. U.S. lawmakers also increasingly recognize that by setting mandatory renewable-electricity standards, the U.S. will secure more clean-energy jobs and will help the country become independent from foreign oil, a top priority for their constituents. In fact, in a January 2010 survey by the pollster Frank Luntz, launched in conjunction with Environmental Defense Fund, 48 percent of respondents cited ending dependence on foreign fuels as the most important environmental and economic goal going forward.

For the sake of jobs – meaningful green and clean jobs – and energy independence, I hope Congress will act soon and pass a national renewable-electricity standard.

Andris (Andy) E. Cukurs is chief executive of the U.S. operations of India-based Suzlon Energy Ltd., the world’s third-largest wind turbine manufacturer.



Every day seems to bring another wind-energy development: a new wind farm, technology advancement, support in mitigating CO2 emissions or a survey underscoring public support for wind power. And wind continues to play an increased role in the dialogue about energy policy in the U.S. We believe Suzlon is well positioned to benefit from important renewable-energy legislation.

As you may know, *The Wall Street Journal* in February ran an article about Suzlon's outlook for the U.S. In it, I reinforced our view that 2010 will see steady performance, with wind-turbine orders accelerating in the second half. We were pleased that in the story, a Duke Energy spokesman cited the "outstanding performance" of Suzlon turbines. Moreover, this year (since January 1, 2010), the S88 V3A has achieved an average availability of 97.14 percent in the United States. I believe this continues to underscore Suzlon's proven technology and strong commitment to our customers.

I am attaching a [link to the Journal](#) story on Suzlon, and also a [special report](#) on the recent Wall Street Journal ECO:nomics conference where I participated as a discussion leader for the wind industry. During the conference, wind energy discussions were lively as new projects are being constructed at half the cost of coal-fired plants and one-third the cost of a new nuclear facility. I intend every so often to keep you apprised of developments such as these because, to me, they reinforce the excitement I think we all share for the very promising renewable-energy sector in the U.S.

And, as usual, I encourage your feedback. Further, should you find yourself in the Chicago area, please be sure to contact me so that we can arrange a tour of our Chicago operations that are located less than a mile from O'Hare airport. At the Chicago facility, we can provide a tour of Suzlon's premier project-monitoring operations that monitor the United States, Latin America, and Europe. Simply e-mail me at andris.cukurs@suzlon.com

Best,

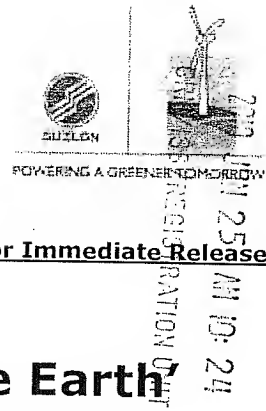
Andris Cukurs

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Note: Since you recently met with Suzlon, I've included you on this distribution to keep you apprised of our company news.

Suzlon
8750 West Bryn Mawr Avenue
Chicago, IL 60631

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News Release

Thursday, April 29, 2010

For Immediate Release

Suzlon global headquarters 'One Earth' receives 'LEED Platinum' certification

- New corporate HQ achieves top sustainability certification, making it one of the world's greenest
- Campus powered 100 percent by renewable energy

Pune/Washington, D.C.: Suzlon Energy Limited (SEL), the world's third-largest* and India's largest wind turbine manufacturer accepted on Thursday, April 29, the Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) Platinum award for its new corporate headquarters in Pune, Maharashtra, India.

Her Excellency Meera Shankar, the Ambassador of India to the United States, awarded the LEED rating citation to Suzlon at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., jointly organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the US India Business Council (USIBC).

The LEED standards – a green environment rating system complying with the standards of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) – specify stringent norms to be met for the greenest, most energy-efficient and high-performance buildings. Started in the U.S., LEED certification continues to gain international traction. CII has been at the front of promoting LEED standards in India, having established the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) in 2001, in partnership with the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Godrej Foundation & USAID, with technical cooperation with the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). Suzlon's 'One Earth' campus is among the first 100 sites in India to receive LEED certification.

Developed on an area of 41,000 square meters (10.13 acres) with a capacity to house 2,300 people, One Earth ranks among the largest green building projects in India. The facility sets new benchmarks in energy efficiency in all aspects of engineering and construction. This whole-building approach to sustainability helped secure the highest LEED rating by focusing on key areas such as human and environmental health; sustainable site development; efficient water; energy and waste methods, materials and resource selection; and indoor environmental quality and innovation. This approach has also made it possible to construct the facility at a lower cost compared to other facilities of comparable size, ultimately leading to a lower lifecycle cost and smaller environmental footprint in the long term.

Specific features of Suzlon 'One Earth' include:

- **Low-energy materials** - More than 70 percent of materials used in the interiors have a reduced carbon footprint. They ensure higher recycled content, have lower embodied energy and are rapidly renewable.

- **Renewable energy-based exterior lighting** - LED street lighting is powered entirely by renewable energy-based systems located on the site thus reducing approximately 25 percent of the total lighting load. Ninety percent of regularly occupied spaces have daylight exposure, thereby saving on artificial lighting.
- **Daylight & occupancy sensors** - Daylight sensors are used in the workstation area for maximum use of artificial lighting. Occupancy sensors control task lighting in unoccupied workstations ensuring savings of about 20 percent of energy costs.
- **Efficient ventilation system** - Jet fans installed in the basements intermittently push out stale air & bring in fresh air, saving 50 percent energy as compared to ducted basement ventilation system.
- **Storm & rainwater management system** - Channels all rain received into a controlled flow, preventing soil erosion and facilitating removal of silt.

Speaking about the award, **Mr. Tulsi Tanti, Chairman of Suzlon Group**, said, "This award underlines Suzlon's commitment to sustainability. I believe that 'One Earth' – named as a tribute to Earth's unique existence as a self-replenishing eco-system – will be inspiration and proof to others that it is possible, if we are really determined, to create a sustainable world for our future."

Commenting on the green building movement in India, Ms. Meera Shankar, Ambassador of India to the United States, remarked, "The issue of climate change poses a serious challenge for India. While meeting this challenge in ways consistent with our national development goals, we also see this as an opportunity to leapfrog in adoption of low carbon intensive technologies and building national competitiveness through resource efficiency. The Green Building Movement, led by industry and the Energy Conservation Building Codes, initiated by the Government of India, are enabling 20-30% reduction in energy consumption in the building sector. India's commitment and actions speak for themselves."

NOTES:

* Suzlon and REpower, if taken together, stand as the world's third leading wind turbine supplier group in terms of market share. Market share of 9.8 per cent is derived from BTM Consult ApS World Market Update 2009, ranking Suzlon with 6.4 per cent of global market share and REpower with 3.4 per cent of global market share.

Suzlon One Earth was conceived, managed and executed by Synefra Engineering & Construction Ltd., a Tanti Group company. With more than a decade of execution expertise, the company is a leader in providing sustainability-focused Innovative Integrated Infrastructure Solutions to different industrial business segments

About Suzlon Energy Limited:

Suzlon ranked as the world's third* leading wind turbine supplier in terms of market share in 2009. Suzlon has its corporate offices in Pune, India and company's global spread reflects in its projects and markets portfolio - extending across Asia, Australia, Europe and North and South America. Suzlon is a highly vertically integrated wind turbine manufacturer with manufacturing capability along the full value chain – from components to complete wind turbine systems. Please visit www.suzlon.com

About Suzlon Wind Energy Corporation:

Suzlon Wind Energy Corporation focuses on the North American market and is a subsidiary of Suzlon Energy Limited of Pune, India, the third largest global wind turbine supplier.* The headquarters for North America is based in Chicago, Illinois, with sales and service offices located across the U.S. Suzlon Wind Energy Corporation, when combined with REpower,* is ranked fourth in U.S. market share for 2009, according to the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA). Together, our sites include more than 700 turbines installed in the U.S. and totaling 1,450 megawatts (MW) of capacity across 20 states. Suzlon also manufactures wind turbine blades for its S88-2.1 MW machine in Pipestone, Minnesota.

About CII/ IGBC:

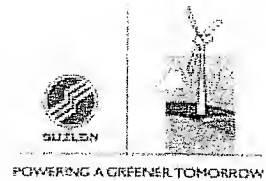
The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the growth of industry in India, partnering industry and government alike through advisory and consultative processes. In 2001, CII established the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), in partnership with the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Godrej Foundation & USAID, with technical cooperation with the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). The 21st century green building movement in India started with the construction of the CII-Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Center (CII-GBC), India's first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) - Platinum rated green building project and ushered in a wave of over 550 green projects across the country. The vision of IGBC is to make India one of the world leaders in Green Buildings by 2012.

Press Contact:

Abby Flacks
Edelman for Suzlon
Tel: 312 233 1311
E-mail: abby.flacks@edelman.com

Investor Relations Contact:

Deven Patel
Investor Relations
Suzlon Energy, Investor Relations, Mumbai
Tel: +91 22 6639 3200
E-mail: pdeven@suzlon.com



News Release

Friday, March 5, 2010

For Immediate Release

Suzlon Wind Energy Corp. Will Install More Than 700 MW of Clean Energy in 2010

- Construction of Nine Wind Power Projects Expected to Funnel \$1.5 Million into Communities

Suzlon Wind Energy Corp., the North American subsidiary of Suzlon Energy Limited, said it plans to bring online 728 MW of renewable energy in the U.S. in 2010. Suzlon Energy Limited is the world's third-largest wind turbine group with a 12.3 per cent global market share.*

Among the nine 2010 projects, 351 newly installed turbines will produce clean energy that can power as many as 220,000 homes in seven states. In addition, these projects will create more than 50 long-term wind turbine maintenance-related jobs in rural areas. During the construction and commissioning of the nine wind farms across the country, Suzlon estimates that its employees will contribute \$1.5 million to the local economies where they live and work.

"We look forward to completing the many projects for Duke Energy, Iberdrola Renewables and others, while simultaneously funneling money back into rural economies and creating green jobs at each wind farm," said Andris Cukurs, CEO of Suzlon Wind Energy. "Our construction and service teams are working fervently to install the turbines and get them online so they can begin generating clean power and providing a strong return for our customers' investments, as well as tax revenues for local communities."

The nine Suzlon projects are located in seven states, including Arizona, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Oregon and Washington. They encompass community projects in Kansas and Minnesota, and the expansion of the first wind farm in Arizona. Nearly all projects feature Suzlon's S88-2.1 MW wind turbine that routinely has performed well.

"Last year we established the first commercial wind farm in Arizona, which produces 63 MW of power using 30 Suzlon S88-2.1 MW turbines. We have been extremely pleased with the performance of the Dry Lake wind farm," said Martín Múgica, executive vice president, Iberdrola Renewables. "We're looking forward to building on that successful milestone with the completion of the Dry Lake II wind farm. After its permitting and construction, it will add up to another 65 MW of clean wind energy to the Arizona grid."

Frequently, Suzlon hears about how its wind farm construction and maintenance employees are appreciated for bolstering local communities and economies. At one wind power plant, Suzlon even contributed to the rebuilding of a town - Greensburg, Kansas - where 95

Suzlon Energy Limited One Earth, Hadapsar, Pune - 411 028, India
Registered Office "Suzlon", 5, Shrimali Society, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad - 380 009, India

percent of its structures were destroyed by a tornado in May 2006. Greensburg's wind farm is home to 10 Suzlon S64-1.25 MW wind turbines that can generate enough energy to power 3,750 homes.

"Suzlon and this wind farm provided a huge boost to this community after the tornado devastated the region and during our recent recovery," said Greensburg Mayor Bob Dixon. "The town is making a remarkable comeback with our mission to be 'better, stronger and greener.' Suzlon's turbines are helping us achieve our green energy goals and are serving to exemplify the potential for wind-powered towns."

At present, Suzlon has more than 1,750 MW of wind turbine capacity installed in the U.S. and expects to have 2,480 MW by the end of the year.

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About Suzlon Wind Energy Corporation

Suzlon Wind Energy Corporation focuses on the North American market and is a subsidiary of Suzlon Energy Limited, India. The headquarters for North America is based in Chicago, Illinois. Sales and service offices are located throughout the U.S.

About Suzlon Energy Limited

Suzlon ranked as the world's third* leading wind turbine supplier in terms of market share in 2008. Suzlon has ranked as the leading manufacturer in the Indian market for ten consecutive years, maintaining over 50% market share. Suzlon has its corporate offices in Pune, India and the company's global spread reflects in its projects and markets portfolio - extending across Asia, Australia, Europe and North and South America. Suzlon is a highly vertically integrated wind turbine manufacturer with manufacturing capability along the full value chain - from components to complete wind turbine systems. For more information on Suzlon, please visit: www.suzlon.com.

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Press Contacts:

USA:

Edelman Public Relations

Abby Flacks

Tel: 312.233.1311

abby.flacks@edelman.com

India:

Edelman India

Abhinav Srivastav

Mumbai

+91 (98923) 23750

abhinav.srivastava@edelman.com

Investor Relations Contacts:

Suzlon Energy Ltd.

Nishit Dave

Investor Relations, Mumbai

+91.22.6639.3200

ndave@suzlon.com

Waiting on the world to change

HuffPost Social News beta



Tulsi Tanti

Founder, Suzlon Energy Limited

Posted: June 3, 2010 01:59 PM

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World Environment Day - the day we celebrate the environment. But what exactly is different on this one particular day of the year? Do we for one day not pollute? Do we stop cutting down trees to make paper? Do the carbon emitting transport systems around the world stop functioning? Do we cut down on our extensive energy intake by even a fraction?

The total world carbon emission amounts to over 29 billion tones a year; do we, for one day, magically make this footprint disappear?

Unfortunately, we know the answer. Each one of us has necessitated the birth of this day. It is a reminder that our planet is getting very sick - we have used too much of its non renewable resources and replaced it with nothing to continue functioning on. Realization of the fact is just the first step - not the solution. We could celebrate the day by turning off the lights for an hour and say that we have done our bit. Or we could even assume that for one single day we shut down all our processes, all our operations, all actions that are in any way harmful to the environment - would that make a difference? No - it would not even make a dent in recovering from the damages we have subjected our planet to.

I am not undermining the importance of this day. In fact, I hope for the year where each day will be proudly celebrated as an environment day.

The answer to a greener future, a greener today, lies not in decreasing our energy consumption; that would just halt growth. It's a common argument that emerging economies like India and China are the biggest threat to the world environment. A growth rate of seven to eight percent means an increase in energy intake by at least as much. Now does that mean we stop their development? Can we take away their right to a better standard of living - a better future? Of course not.

But a solution exists and it's all around us. It is in the air we breathe, the water we drink and the sun that nurtures our existence. They are natural abundant renewable resources that the world is blessed with.

The average global power consumption currently stands at 15 terawatt (TW) - and the global wind power capacity alone is 72 TW. To add to it, a single average sized wind turbine prevents the emission of 1,500 tons of CO₂ each year. Renewable sources are not only the solution to our depleting fossil fuels, they are also the way towards a healthier planet.

World leaders, politicians, think tanks, and environmentalists all over the world over are meeting to devise targets, set up policies and search for the best way to change world energy consumption patterns. All these are helpful, national-level policy changes and macro economic views are certainly needed. But they are not enough. Every business and each individual needs to go through an attitude change. The escapist route of employing accessible, convertible and rich power density energy sources is conventional and thus easier. But we have enough reason to make the change to more technology-driven and research intensive clean-energy sources. And that is possible. I work towards that reality every single day.

My company, Suzlon Energy, is both a business and the champion of that cause. We are not only providing the world with sustainable green energy solutions - we are employing them in our own backyard. One Earth, our newly opened 10.13-acre global headquarters in Pune, is a campus powered 100 percent by renewable energy. We have used a combination of solar and wind power, a hybrid system to power a workplace for 2,300 employees. Honored recently for achieving platinum LEED certification, 'One Earth' can serve as the actionable model every business should employ.

In 1973, World Environment Day began as "a day that stimulates awareness of the environment, enhances political attention and public action." Nearly four decades later we are now all adequately aware of the dangers to the environment and to man's very existence. It can also be said that environment issues have garnered considerable political attention. What remains now is public action.

This year let's take the oath to bring green and clean energies into our everyday lives. Let 2010 be the turning point which leads to a year in the future when we can truly celebrate the environment, the year when every day is the World Environment Day.

Tulsi R Tanti is founder, chairman and managing director of Suzlon Limited. Suzlon is the majority shareholder in German-based REpower and the largest shareholder in Belgium engineering firm Hansen.